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COUNTRY Bolivia

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SUPPLEMENT TO

1. The General Staff of the Bolivian army believes that the current publicity campaign being conducted in the Bolivian press, urging the conversion of army buildings for educational use, is instigated by leftists, including leaders and elements of the Partido Izquierda Revolucionario (PIR). Faustino Suarez, Secretary of Education of the PIR, is believed to be particularly responsible for the current propaganda which characterizes the army as a drone absorbing the resources of the state while Bolivian children go without adequate education.
2. The army deeply resents this attack which has produced a general spirit of unrest in the armed forces. The army view is that the leftists, especially the PIR, wish to weaken and discredit the army so that they can gain control of the government more easily.
3. The principal public spokesmen for the conversion of army facilities to educational use have been teachers and teachers' organizations, known collectively as the Magisterio, which is dominated by leftists a large proportion of whom are members or sympathizers of the PIR. Carlos Tapia Montes, Director of the Instituto Normal Superior, has been one of the principal figures on the side of the Magisterio in the current controversy.
4. The PIR is taking care not to commit any acts of open hostility to the army, although it has been basically unfriendly to the army and the Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario (MNR) since the days of the Villarroel regime. PIR attacks against the army are restricted to indirect propaganda campaigns, such as the current one designed to show that the army is following a policy detrimental to Bolivian educational advancement.

This document is hereby regraded to
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